

original 19 parishes created from the Territory of Orleans, St. Charles will celebrate its 200th anniversary in 2007.

St. Charles Parish was created in 1807 from the "Cote des Allemands," or county of the German Coast, which begins 25 miles above the city of New Orleans and extends along both sides of the Mississippi River for 40 miles toward Baton Rouge. It contained a rich mixture of Germans, French Creoles, French Acadians, and Free Blacks and thrived as an agricultural center whose produce fed the city of New Orleans.

In 1720, 21 German families from the Rhine region of Germany settled on the west bank of the Mississippi River. These families had suffered horribly during the Thirty Years' War and fled by the thousands to the New World. These original German settlers were given small plots of land by Mr. Law's Company of the Indies.

By 1721, 330 German immigrants, also with the Company of the Indies, arrived in Louisiana. A year later, Germans from John Law's Arkansas Concession arrived in New Orleans demanding passage to Europe. Due to a lack of ships and supplies, Louisiana Governor Bienville persuaded them to remain, and they eventually joined the other German settlers along the banks of the river. In 1765 and 1766, the first Acadians arrived in the area, and they too were given land along the river, and joined the Germans in raising the fruits and produce that was used to feed the city of New Orleans. This produce business along with tobacco, indigo, and lumber made the area a major component in the growth and development of Louisiana.

Later the parish turned from an agricultural to an industrial economic base where new opportunities opened in large-scale oil production. The economic base of St. Charles Parish now centers around energy and petrochemical industries, and recent years have seen the parish's economy diversify into the areas of technology and transportation. The region has also been rated in the top 10 percent of best places to live in the United States by the Places Rated Almanac.

Today, I would like to applaud the good people of St. Charles Parish on their bicentennial and wish them continued prosperity. ●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 4, 2005, the Secretary of the Senate, on April 11, 2006, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 4979. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to clarify the preference for local firms in the award of certain contracts for disaster relief activities.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of April 7, 2006, the enrolled bill was signed on April 11, 2006, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the Acting President pro tempore (Mrs. DOLE).

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the second time, and ordered referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. 2612. A bill to provide for comprehensive immigration reform and for other purposes.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 2603. A bill to reduce temporarily the royalty required to be paid for sodium produced on Federal lands, and for other purposes.

S. 2611. A bill to provide for comprehensive immigration reform and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-6355. A communication from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Weighted Average Interest Rate Update" (Notice 2006-39) received on April 7, 2006; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6356. A communication from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Median Gross Income for 2006 Revenue Procedure" (Rev. Proc. 2006-20) received on April 7, 2006; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6357. A communication from the General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination for the position of Chief Financial Officer, received on April 7, 2006; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6358. A communication from the Director, Office of Management, Department of Energy, transmitting, the Department's 2005 lists of Government activities determined to be inherently governmental and those to be not inherently governmental in nature; to

the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-6359. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, the report of proposed legislation to enhance the effectiveness of the intelligence and counterintelligence programs within the Department of Energy; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-6360. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, the report of proposed legislation to facilitate international participation in the Second Line of Defense Program and to utilize such funds without further appropriation and without fiscal year limitation; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-6361. A communication from the Secretary of the Air Force, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a Program Acquisition Unit Cost (PAUC) breach for C-130AMP, and Average Procurement Unit Cost (APUC) breach for Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile (JASSM), and both PAUC and APUC breaches for Joint Strike Fighter (F-35) and Joint Primary Aircraft Training System (JPATS); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6362. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the status of active duty female members of the Armed Forces for Fiscal Year 2005; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6363. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Labor, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment to Prohibited Transaction Exemption 80-26 (PTE 80-26) for Certain Interest Free Loans to Employee Benefits Plans" (Application Number D-11046) received on April 7, 2006; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6364. A communication from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Food Additives Permitted for Direct Addition to Food for Human Consumption; Glycerides and Polyglycerides" (Docket No. 1994F-0457) received on April 7, 2006; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6365. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Equal Access to Public School Facilities for the Boy Scouts of America and Other Designated Youth Groups" (RIN1870-AA12) received on April 7, 2006; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6366. A communication from the Secretary of State, transmitting, pursuant to United States Policy in Iraq Act, section 1227 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006, a report relative to the current military, diplomatic, political, and economic measures that are being or have been undertaken to complete our mission in Iraq successfully; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6367. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the status of consular training with respect to travel and identity documents; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6368. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Nomenclature Changes Reflecting Creation of Department of Homeland Security" (22 CFR